

Public meeting set for July 15

Sound barrier study proposes options of \$6.3M

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

A final report on the sound barrier feasibility study proposes a variety of options with estimated costs in the ballpark of \$6.3 million, the *Independent* learned last week. Half would be paid by Quebec. The barrier would parallel the Ville Marie expressway from the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG) to Weredale Park.

Announcing overall findings, Councillor Theodora Samiotis said the report provided scenarios the city had requested for

specific areas, especially now that Canadian Pacific will not allow any part of its land along the railway corridor to be used for the project.

One of the major constraints identified in the report, she said, is the portion of the railway overpass at Greene Ave. This would require construction of a sound barrier consisting of a separate structure crossing the street.

"The report is a pretty extensive and complex study," Samiotis explained. "It assesses every tree and the impact of various scenarios on the first and second floors of homes." Of course, she added, "the efficacy would change depending on the final design." This would be dictated by the balance and combination of design options proposed. *continued on p. 7*

A wet Canada Day



For anyone with a love of water, the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) was the place to be on Canada Day July 1. Steady rain fell for most of the day. The weather was a factor that saw scarcely a dozen show up for Westmount's Canada Day celebration in the early afternoon. Westmounter McShane Jones is seen heading off the board during a diving contest that took place around 2 pm. A cake was served at 1 pm in the WRC.

Photo: Martin C. Barry



Westmount Page p. 10

Letters p. 6

Social Notes by V. REDGRAVE p. 15

9 Lives by L. FOWLER p. 13

Cameras to look out at lookout

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Three surveillance cameras are going up at Summit lookout shortly to help public safety officers keep an eye out at the popular location for tourists by day, and loitering and partying "after hours."

Public Security director Greg McBain said the cameras would assist in monitoring issues such as the consumption of alcohol in Sunnyside Park immediately below the lookout, along with violations of the midnight park curfew, littering, loud

music and the breaking of bottles.

"The lookout's a beautiful place, but it's been a favourite spot for after-hours issues over the years," he explained.

The three cameras are to be mounted on the tall antenna tower that was formerly used for the city's radio communications systems. They are to face east, west and south.

Just like the city's other surveillance cameras in the parks and municipal buildings, they are to be monitored in the Public Secu- *continued on p. 8*

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Thicker, wider street lines under trial

Second team proposed for filling city pot holes in future

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

It seems that this year's late-spring thaw not only delayed road construction projects but also pushed back the filling of pot holes, Councillor Patrick Martin said last week. The number of rainy days has also affected street-line painting, which uses a less durable type of water-based paint than was used before 2013.

"What concerns me is the slow filling of pot holes, which usually takes place in May and June," Martin said. He has been "assured" by Public Works, however, that the delays resulted from the shortening of the season by some three weeks along with the malfunction of some equipment.

As commissioner of Public Works, he said, "we want to ensure this doesn't happen again." As a result, "my proposal is to get additional equipment so we can have two teams working on potholes."

On the other hand, he said, while line painting has already been completed on some streets, the rainy weather in June

had also caused delays.

The currently used paint also seems to wear off sooner than paint used in previous years, with some lines scarcely visible after winter abrasives and the use of some studded tires. As a result, Martin said, Public Works is experimenting this year with specifying that the contractor use a thicker and wider application of paint.

The durability of the paint now required by the Quebec ministry of the Environment was raised at the city council meeting April 2, 2013 by Paul Marriott, a resident of Grosvenor. At that time, it was suggested by then city director general Duncan Campbell that a second paint application might have to be added before the start of winter in "certain vulnerable" locations (see story "New paint-line paint could fade even sooner, April 16, 2013, p. 8).

The government's prohibition on the use of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in street-line paints was reported at that time to have been introduced in September 2012.

Face cleaning for Vic Hall



The second phase of work to clean and restore mortar at Victoria Hall began recently as seen here the morning of June 29. This year the work involves exterior work at the back and one side of the community centre. "We're also looking at some roofing issues," Public Works director Patrick Raggo explained. Repairing ceiling damage in the concert hall is also among more minor but important work to take place.

Photo: Ralph Thompson; Story: Laureen Sweeney

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Cracking down at Summit lookout

10 ticketed \$908 for curfew, littering, drinking violations

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A total of 10 people were ticketed in the area of the Summit lookout for by-law offences in the early hours of June 27 and 28, Public Security officials report. None lived in Westmount.

The most recent tickets are part of a crackdown on problems encountered around Summit Circle in the late evening and overnight hours that, since June 15, have resulted in 22 tickets issued for parking after 9 pm and 23 others for varying by-law violations.

This is just the tip of the iceberg, however, according to Public Security Greg McBain. “Some nights we’ve had as many as 25 cars parking there containing people drinking, smoking ‘making out’ or listening to music.” Residents complain in the morning about broken bottles and lots of litter.

Two men and two women were given \$76 tickets June 27 for breaking the parks

midnight curfew when spotted in Sunny-side Park just below the lookout at 12:45 am. The four also had a bottle of vodka in their possession. They were identified as residents of Lachine, Brossard and Montreal, aged 17 to 25.

An hour later, a 27-year-old LaSalle man was also ticketed for breaking the curfew. He was carrying a can of beer.

Three tickets were reported issued to two Montreal men at the same location June 28 at 12:47 am. Each was initially ticketed the \$76 for violating the curfew. One was described as so upset by the ticket, however, that he threw two bags of garbage on the ground generating a second ticket for littering. The cost of that one: \$148.

At 3 am the same day, two men and a woman were caught consuming alcohol in the same area after they had been kept under surveillance. Aged 20 to 24, they lived in St. Lambert, NDG and Gatineau. Each received a \$76 ticket for alcohol consumption.

Asphalt resurfacing planned for 7 locations

City council is expected to award a contract July 6 to Eurovia Québec Construction Inc. for the asphalt resurfacing this summer of six streets and a parking lot at a cost of \$678,352.90 (including tax credit).

Councillor Patrick Martin, commissioner of Public Works, identified the locations as:

- Metcalfe (Sherbrooke to Côte St. Antoine)
- Montrose (Mountain to Ramezay)
- Bellevue

- Brooke
- Dorchester eastbound (Greene to Atwater)
- St. Catherine (Park Place to Kensington)
- The parking lot behind the Montreal Oral School for the Deaf.

Also to be approved was a contract to Aquarehab (Canada) Inc. for relining the water mains on Bethune St. and Westmount Ave. (Lansdowne to Claremont) in the amount of \$576,124.15 (including tax credit).

OK expected for 5-ft. fence around dog run

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The new southwest dog run was expected to move forward at the July 6 city council meeting, after press time, with approval by council of a five-foot-high fence around all sides. The purchase and installation of the fence was listed on the agenda to be moved by Councillor Patrick Martin, commissioner of Public Works.

The dog run location in Westmount Park – essentially a long rectangular area just north of the junior tennis courts – was authorized by council last October, though its precise design has been fluid and controversial (see story June 9, p. 1).

The total length of the fence to be purchased for the dog run is 180 metres at a cost of \$26,820 plus tax, he said. Another 90 metres of fencing 3.5 feet high is to cost \$13,500 plus tax. This is to be installed along the east stretch of the bike path. It

would replace the snow fencing in front of Westmount Park School’s playground that protects kids from running out into the bike path.

“Both fences will be the same model and appearance as the one currently installed around the junior soccer field” on Academy Rd., he explained.

“While the exact design of the dog run has yet to be finalized,” Martin added, “construction of the fence will have been approved.

“As I told a recent meeting of the Westmount Municipal Association, and as council members already know, this is not my favourite location for the dog run. But since council has decided it should be there, I just want to make sure the pedestrian crossings are safe.”

He said he chose not to divulge his preferred site.



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Leads to \$12M surplus

Major impact from real estate reflected in city's audited statement

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

A close look at the city's audited financial report for 2014 shows just how much of an impact the real estate market makes on the city's overall revenue and its ultimate effect on the bottom line.

Despite what has been reported as a relatively flat housing market last year and a drop in the value of building permits, the market contributed more than \$4 million to the city's \$12-million surplus reported by Mayor Peter Trent (see story June 23, p. 1).

Details from the auditors' report to be submitted at the city council meeting Monday, July 6, show the welcome tax from the turn-over of property generated a total of \$5.7 million in overall revenue compared to the budgeted \$3.3 million and the previous year's \$4 million.

New construction, such as the 1250 Greene condos coming onto the tax roll in 2014, contributed to a boost in the total amount raised from taxation of \$83 million over the budget of \$81 million. Permits and licences, most of which related to construction, renovation and additions, generated \$793,000 compared to the budget of \$530,000.

The city's \$92 million in operating expenditures on a budget of \$95 million included some \$51 million paid to the Montreal agglomeration for shared island-wide services. The remainder went toward providing local services. These included remuneration and benefits, debt financing and the pay-as-you go for capital works projects.

Off-setting revenues

The detailed amounts of the audited statement show how some of the city departments were revenue generating. These included Public Security, Urban Planning and Sports and Recreation. These revenues theoretically offset some of their expenses, though their revenues were folded into the general "kitty."

While the Public Security Unit was slightly under its \$3.4 million budget for expenditures due to "staff turn-over and re-allocation of personnel," it generated a substantial amount of the \$3 million in court fines and \$3.3 million in revenues related to parking lots and permits, as well as meters.

This amount was higher than usual because it includes some \$700,000 that applied to other years but had not been turned over to Westmount until 2014 by Montreal Municipal Court, which processes tickets issued for parking, traffic and by-law infractions.

WRC's impact

At Sports and Recreation, the first full year of operation of the new Westmount recreation centre (WRC), the cost of operating the rinks, pool and recreation activities of \$2.6 million was offset by \$1.1 million coming from "increase in revenues from skating rinks and recreational activity registrations" according to a notation on the report.

While Urban Planning operates on a \$1.1 million budget, much of its work led to revenue from permits and licences, which brought in some \$800,000.

Study launches this week City to assess heritage, uses of 'houses of worship'

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

In an effort to protect the heritage of a dozen houses of worship, the city is launching a study this week to assess their heritage value, role in the Westmount community and potential re-use, Councilor Theodora Samiotis announced last week.

"This was one of council's priorities because we have never had a heritage rating of our houses of worship," said Samiotis, commissioner of Urban Planning. The goal is to conserve the properties in the event of re-use (see "Council goals aimed to update, protect Westmount as 'livable city,'" April 29, 2014, p. 5).

"Each site is to be evaluated including both the exterior and interior of each building, and its current uses assessed," she explained.

Some of these houses of worship are suffering from dwindling congregations but serve as community centres, daycares or seniors' centres. They also provide other services to the wider community other than their basic religious role.

Letters will be going out to each congregation this week explaining the study to be undertaken on behalf of the city by the firm of Bergeron Gagnon Inc. of Quebec City. It was chosen, she said, for its experience in the heritage assessment of houses of worship.

Ling Immler in town for FIFA



Former Westmounter Vanessa Ling Immler, now a resident of Munich, Germany was travelling with the German national women's soccer team that made it to the FIFA Women's World Cup semifinal against the US national team. Immler works in the sponsorship department of insurance company Allianz – a major sponsor of the team. She said the players she's promoting are motivated by their passion for soccer, and they also work and study while playing for the national team. "They don't have the opportunity to play for money or celebrity," she said, comparing them to their male counterparts. "It's unfortunate." The Independent met up with her June 29 in Westmount Park, where she played soccer for more than a decade during her youth.

Photo: Joanne Penhale

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Change in executive hockey draws criticism from some

BY MICHAEL MOORE

Westmount's Sports and Recreation department is modifying the registration process for its Executive A and B hockey leagues in an attempt to increase the competitive balance among its players. But not all are happy.

In previous years, registrants could chose whether they wanted to play at the A or B level, no questions asked.

"There have been complaints from captains that players should be playing at the proper level," said Sports and Recreation's Bruce Stacey, who organizes the city's adult men's divisions, which includes the Executive league for age 35 and older. "Some players know what level they should be at, but others are new to the league and don't know where they should be."

Under the new method, all of players will be lumped into one pool, and Stacey will consult with the captains so they can share their first-hand knowledge of players to determine whether they should be placed in what is considered to be the more competitive A level or the more recreational B level.

The six A captains will then draft their teams from the overall pool, with the four B captains then selecting their squads from the left-over players. Hypothetically, the new method would ensure the best players are chosen first for the A teams, said Stacey, who has also compiled stats to aid the selection process.

"Now it gives the captains a bit more freedom in terms of knowing who should play in which league," he explained.

He only expected "about four or five" players to be affected, one way or the other.

However, the new method hasn't received unanimous support, particularly among those at the B-level, according to

Paul Rabinovitch, captain of last year's B-division champion Team MD.

Rabinovitch called the new process "ridiculous" and a way to "accommodate a few personalities they don't want to hurt" without telling them they aren't good enough for A.

"For the people who should be playing B, [Sports and Rec] doesn't want to put them there automatically, so they put them in the draft instead so they don't have to do it themselves," he said.

Additionally, Rabinovitch expressed concern that the new system could result in players who've built multi-year friendships at one level being forced to abandon them for unfamiliar new teammates.

"I wouldn't want to walk into a room with 14 strangers. You build relationships with each other. If I could keep my team from this year intact and not win, I'd be just as happy," he said.

"It'd be a shame if they break up the league. I have a few friends who definitely could play A but if they're drafted there, they won't go."

Rather than unifying the registration process, Rabinovitch unsuccessfully pitched the idea of altering the number of teams per division from six in A and four in B to five in each.

"I think [Stacey] does a great job. It's a hard job dealing with 120 personalities, but there's probably three guys in B who could play A. From what I'm told, there are probably two dozen guys in A who could play B. That's the problem," he said.

Stacey said Sports and Recreation considered altering the uneven number of division of teams, but ultimately decided the new unified pool would be the best way forward.

"There will be complaints but it's for the betterment of the league," he said.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'SLOPPY' BUDGETING

Regarding "City posts \$12M surplus," (June 23, p. 1), it's confirmed: The city of Westmount has announced that it's "taxing too much to run the city."

Twenty seven percent too much to be precise – or maybe it's 29 percent if you add the 2 percent to pay for the Westmount recreation centre.

I have an announcement to make too: I already knew that, and I didn't have to buy a fancy "automated financial system" (aka: expensive and clearly a waste of money) for "real-time control management." All I had to do was look at my ever increasing municipal tax bills.

But I'm thankful the mayor announced the surplus' "discovery" and, like the mayor, "I'm so angry about this," but for another reason: Why wasn't a reduction in our 2016 property taxes – and subsequent years – also announced?

Because, oh joy, there's another large surplus expected in 2015.

I've done the math and know how much my property taxes should go down.

You should too, because "sloppy" budgeting is not acceptable.

THOMAS LAPIERRE, CHESTERFIELD AVE.

WHAT 'KIND' DOESN'T SAQ WANT IN ITS STORE?

I would like to discuss an ongoing issue following my mother's recent visit to the SAQ on Sherbrooke St. in Westmount. First, we are both residents of Westmount and have been for many years. This SAQ is where we make all our wine purchases, and the service has always been rather rude, but worse so recently.

Usually when we go to the SAQ, we are greeted in French. As citizens of this province we speak French fluently. There is one particular cashier who is always extremely rude with the English patrons and refuses to speak in English.

The other day when my mother went to purchase some wine, the cashier made an announcement to the store and started with a statement in French: "I will make this announcement in French and only in French." When my mother approached the counter to pay, the cashier said to her, in French, "I made the announcement only in French," to which my mother replied in French, "Why?" The cashier replied "Because my English is not good, and everyone should speak French here," to which

my mother calmly replied "You shouldn't worry about your English; we appreciate the effort." My mother paid and on her way out of the store, a clerk in the back yelled to her "We don't want your kind in here!"

My mother was upset by this and called the manager. She was placed on hold for quite some time until she eventually hung up.

I know this has been an ongoing issue in this city, and will always be, but at what point did discrimination and harassment become acceptable? The fact that employees (government employees no less) are allowed to get away with yelling hateful comments to their customers in their place of business is deplorable.

I was a government employee as well, and I had to be bilingual, pass a French exam and was expected to treat my patients in the language of *their* choosing. I would never dream of responding to someone speaking French in English, despite

being anglophone, let alone yell at them "we don't want your kind here."

I don't understand how there is no accountability for these kinds of hurtful actions. They can get away with any action or verbal abuse and yet if a menu has an English word on it, there is hell to pay. I am so sick of this kind of treatment.

My mother has since purchased a one-way ticket out of Quebec. Two of my brothers also moved away in recent years. The fact that uprooting our lives is the only answer to this issue is just sickening.

It would be nice if the SAQ would address this issue as it is not the first time it has happened. We are purchasing their products the same as their French clients and deserve the same respect. Our money is just as good for purchases as well as paying their salaries. They should think twice about that next time they choose to disrespect their English customers.

MARINA SMITHE, ST. CATHERINE ST.

Batshaw Children Needing Homes Learning to be independent at 2

A foster home is being sought for two-and-a-half year-old Lisa, an energetic child with an outgoing personality. She is presently in an emergency foster home, where she is adapting to routine and structure.

Lisa has a history of neglect and was lacking in activities, resulting in developmental delays in the area of speech. This is noticeable when she struggles to speak in sentences. Referrals have been sent to speech and occupational therapists.

This child has made significant gains in her present foster home. Of late, she has been exerting her independence by insisting on dressing herself, and with only a few adjustments by her foster mother, she is ready to go. She is learning to feed

herself. There is still a mess at mealtime, but this does not stop Lisa from showing great pride in having accomplishing the task.

In spite of the gains this toddler has made, she can display significant temper tantrums. However, with patience and consistency, Lisa is learning appropriate behaviours.

Lisa's parents are not able to take care of her. The ideal foster family would be of black/aboriginal heritage, able to make the commitment to her for as long as she needs them.

For more information about Lisa, please call Batshaw Youth and Family Centres at 514.932. 7161, local 1139.

Woman falls on cut in road

Two city employees reported seeing a woman fall June 26 at Lansdowne and Sherbrooke where construction cones indicated a cut in the road, Public Security officials said. The woman was reported to have been walking between the cones. She was reported to have said she would return home and apply ice on the injury. She had already left when officers were informed of the incident at 11:10 am.

Correction

The "Police Report" column of June 23 ("Hillside car crash sends two to hospital with serious injuries," p. 18) should have reported that it was the nurses and staff of St. Margaret residential centre who were the first responders to the accident on Hillside near Metcalfe on June 10.

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Re-opening July 6

Regulars expected to return to Cabot Square

BY MICHAEL MOORE

Cabot Square was re-opening on July 6 at press time, and regular users are expected to return after a year-long hiatus.

Prior to closing for a \$6.3-million renovation last year, Cabot Square had been the go-to gathering spot for visiting aboriginals travelling in from up north for medical care.

The square, which straddles the Westmount-Montreal border on the east side of Atwater below St. Catherine, is well known among the closely related aboriginal communities of northern Quebec, according to Donat Savoie, special advisor to Makivik Corporation, the legal representative of Quebec's Inuit people. Visiting Inuit seeking medical care are dropped off with their escorts at the nearby YMCA residence on Tupper St., and some head to the park searching for relatives and friends.

"While they are waiting for their treatment, they'll go [to Cabot Square] to look for their sister or brother or cousin. It's their area and has been for many, many years," said Savoie, the former chief federal negotiator for Nunavik's self-government. "The city [of Montreal] is planning all types of cultural events, but for [the Inuit] it's quote-unquote 'their park.'"

The police have also noticed its popularity among native people.

"The Inuit are overrepresented in Cabot Square because there's a service nearby [the Northern Quebec Module] that caters to them," said Station 12 constable Adalbert Pimentel of the Montreal police. "You can find similar situations in other parks in Montreal."

Even so, precise statistics are hard to

come by, "We don't keep statistics based on people's race," he continued. "That's a common question we get. We can't just look it up in the computer and see how many people are from the same region, unlike age, for example."

Pimentel was quick to add "We don't have an Inuit problem. We have issues with individuals and they come from different age groups and nationalities."

Based out of the Tupper St. YMCA, the Northern Quebec Module helps organize the transport and care of those travelling south for medical care. It estimates that there are approximately 200 Inuit in Montreal using the medical service at any one point. While some stay with family and friends or in hospitals receiving care, all of the organization's 135 beds at the Tupper facility are currently in use.

With the rotating group of Inuit visitors and other more permanent residents, prior to its closing, Station 12 officers had repeatedly referred to the square as a perennial "hotspot" of street crime and public drinking. During a two-month period in the fall of 2012, Montreal police officers recorded that 59 criminal arrests, 71 municipal by-law violations, and 312 verbal warnings or expulsions were handed out, according to a report published by the Montreal Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy Network.

Once it closed for renovation in early summer 2014, the estimated 30 to 40 regulars scattered outward, spreading into Westmount and downtown. The park's barricades were due to come down on July 6, and an inauguration ceremony featuring Montreal mayor Denis Coderre is expected to be held on July 8 to show off the square's

new sidewalks, benches and lighting.

However, it may also feature some familiar faces who want to call it home again.

"We're definitely expecting a migration back to the park once it reopens," said Pimentel, a member of the Cabot Square planning committee.

Police are instituting several initiatives to help combat street crime in Cabot Square and similar areas. Station 12 has a two-man on-foot patrol to establish a more notable presence in Westmount's most troublesome areas, and Pimentel and partner Stephan Laperriere currently walk the streets two to three times a week, speaking to merchants, residents and homeless individuals.

Until October, the Montreal police department is operating a task force with 22 on-foot and on-bike officers, including three from Station 12, based out of 980 Guy that is patrolling the southern region of Montreal specifically for street crimes, such as fighting, public intoxication and urination.

The Inuit homelessness situation could grow more dire, according to Savoie. More and more are migrating south to escape northern Quebec's social, financial and medical problems, including a high cost of living, housing crises, soaring poverty rates, lack of food, and rampant tuberculosis in communities.

Makivik estimates that there are currently 1,300 Inuit living in Montreal, of which 400 to 600 are very vulnerable or homeless. To help cope with the issue, the organization has reached out to various community programs to provide financial help, including a \$50,000 donation to

Westmount-based Open Door for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Located at St. Stephen's Anglican Church a stone's throw from Cabot Square, Open Door is a day shelter offering food, clothing and counselling to homeless and low-income people in the area.

Savoie said organizations like the Open Door are crucial to providing an escape route to those most at risk.

"We're meeting with people and trying to put together a plan for helping with the situation. If nobody is willing to help, where are the homeless people going to go? They need services," he said.

However, Savoie says the private sector, including businesses around Cabot Square, needs to play a more prominent role in helping those living on the streets. He points to efforts made by the private sector in Calgary for helping to ease a similar situation in Alberta.

"Homelessness doesn't stop at borders. It's an urban phenomenon," said Savoie.

Open Door director Caleb Clark was contacted to be interviewed for this story but declined.

Sound barrier cont'd. from p. 1

Full details are to be revealed at a public consultation meeting July 15 at 7 pm at Centre Greene, she said. The final report is to be presented on the city website.

The feasibility study by Santec (formerly Dessau) was jointly funded by the Quebec ministry of Transport (MTQ) and the city, each paying some \$50,000.

The first part of the study was presented September 11 outlining several options. No details were made public. The second and concluding part was to have been due in November (see September 16, p. 1). Instead, it turned out to be an interim report. The final report was received by the city June 15. Other tight areas include the stretch from the WAG through the foot of Columbia and Bruce. One scenario here is to mount a sound barrier on a berm, she

said. Among the considerations and variables would be the height of the berm as

well as the trees, she explained.



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Police Report

\$160K sculpture stolen from local gallery

BY MICHAEL MOORE

The following news story is based on information from police reports provided by a Station 12 constable in an interview with the reporter.

Montreal police are asking for the public's help in tracking down an art thief who stole a \$160,000 sculpture from a Westmount gallery under the cover of darkness

on May 20.

A 22-second clip of surveillance camera footage released on the police website shows the suspect walking past the gallery at 12:32 am. Less than an hour later, the man allegedly broke through the gallery's back door, stole the sculpture and left the way he came in.

Police have chosen not to release the name of the gallery or the sculptor, referring to him or her simply as an "internationally renowned artist."

The stainless steel sculpture is 64 cm tall, 45 cm wide and 31 cm deep and sits on a large oval-shaped stone base. However, police suspect the base and sculpture may no longer be attached after it was damaged during the theft.

Though the theft occurred on May 20, police only released pictures of the sculpture and information of the heist on June 30. Asked why the delayed release of in-

formation for almost six weeks, Anie Lemieux of the Montreal police told the *Independent* that police had unsuccessfully tried to track the suspect through other investigative means before alerting the public.

The suspect is described only as a white, brown-haired male, who was wearing grey pants, a dark blue shirt, a grey kangaroo shirt and navy cap at the time of the crime.

Police are asking anybody with information regarding the theft to contact INFO-CRIME at 514.393.1133.

Info session on Cabot Square

Station 12 is hosting an information session for residents concerning the re-opening of Cabot Square. The meeting takes place at the Atwater Library on Thursday, July 9 from 7 to 9 pm.

Permit waived for roof

Emergency work to repair a roof at 53 Bruce was allowed to take place June 26 despite the failure of workers to obtain the required permit for trucks to occupy the street. Public Security officials said the lack of permit was discovered when patrollers answered a complaint at 5:48 pm for work damaging branches of a tree. No damage was found. The roofers stated the Public Works permits' office had been closed for the day but that repairs were urgent.

Missing teenager Courtney returns home

BY MICHAEL MOORE

The 17-day hunt for missing teenager Tamara Courtney was called off on June 23 when she voluntarily walked back into to her Westmount home (see story June 23, p. 2).

"It turns out she wasn't missing. She just ran away," a Montreal police spokesperson told the *Independent*.

Police had been searching for the 16-year-old since she disappeared from the Atwater Metro station on June 6. Courtney had been on a shopping trip with her grandmother when the pair split up to reach the Metro level, with the teen taking the stairs and her grandmother using the Alexis Nihon elevator.

When the grandmother reached the Metro level, Courtney was nowhere to be found, prompting the police search.

Cameras cont'd. from p. 1

rity dispatch area, he said. These are located in Westmount, Stayner and King George (Murray) parks.

The cameras have been "a great tool" as a deterrent to vandalism, to enforcing municipal by-laws and even in capturing criminal activity. "We've been able to initiate intervention in a number of cases and turned over footage to police to use in investigations.

"These are all measures to provide a safer and quieter place," McBain said.

In a recent campaign to crack down on "after-hours" activity, patrollers issued a number of tickets for curfew violation, alcohol consumption and littering in the last couple of weeks.

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HÔTEL DE VILLE

Exposition à l'hôtel de ville : les commerces de la rue Sherbrooke Ouest

Du 20 juin au 20 octobre 2015, foyer de l'hôtel de ville, 4333, rue Sherbrooke O. L'Association historique de Westmount présente des photographies récentes de Doreen Lindsay sur les commerces de la rue Sherbrooke Ouest. Gratuit. Info : 514 932-6688.

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BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Club de lecture d'été TD 2015

À compter du 8 juin. Le thème cet été encourage le JEU! Demandez votre trousse de lecture d'été au comptoir des enfants – il y aura des prix fantastiques à gagner! Info : 514 989-5222.

On joue !

Le 17 juillet 2015, 18 h 30, Pavillon du Boulingrin, 401, av. Kensington. Sois des nôtres pour un cours gratuit de boulingrin, suivi d'une partie amicale contre les employé(e)s de la Bibliothèque des enfants ! De la crème glacée sera servie. Inscription requise. Info : 514 989-5229.

ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Exposition de groupe à la galerie

Du 9 juillet au 8 août, Galerie du Victoria Hall. La galerie est fière de présenter l'exposition de groupe mettant en vedette les artistes suivants : Harvey Corn, Pascale Delhay, Pierre Lessard, Loran, Oriana Pizzingrilli, Eliane Rivard et Andrew Stringer. Info : 514 989-5521 ou victoriahall@westmount.org.



Concerts d'été au Parc Westmount

Les dimanches 12, 19 et 26 juillet, ainsi que les 2 et 9 août à 14 h, près du Gazebo. Apportez votre chaise et votre pique-nique pour des concerts de musique jazz, classique et blues.

Shakespeare en plein air

Les 11, 12, 25 et 26 juillet, parc Westmount.

Prochaine séance du conseil le lundi 3 août

La troupe Repercussion Theatre présente la pièce *Twelfth Night* or *what you will* (en anglais). Apportez une chaise ! Info : 514 989-5226.

Shakespeare en plein air : atelier avant-spectacle pour adolescents
Les samedis 11 et 25 juillet seulement, de 14 h 30 à 17 h au Victoria Hall. Inscrivez-vous à un de nos ateliers : échangez avec un professeur de théâtre professionnel, explorez le texte de Shakespeare en vous divertissant, et faites partie des festivités de l'avant-spectacle de *Twelfth Night* en tant que chanteurs, bouffons ou pirates ! Pour les ados de 13 à 17 ans. Coût : 25 \$. Info : 514 989-5226.

SPORTS ET LOISIRS

Inscription : activités automne et hiver
À compter du 9 juin. Inscrivez-vous en personne au CLW ou en ligne. Le répertoire des activités, distribué en début juin, est disponible au **westmount.org**. Info : 514 989-5353.

SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

Vous partez en vacances ?

Contactez le Service de la sécurité publique de Westmount; des agents vérifieront la maison pendant votre absence. Info : 514 989-5222.

Sièges d'auto pour enfants : vérification

Les petits-enfants sont en visite? Votre famille s'agrandit ? Appelez l'équipe de la Sécurité publique de Westmount et prenez rendez-vous pour faire installer ou vérifier vos sièges d'auto pour enfants. Service gratuit. Info : 514 989-5222.

Couvre-feu en vigueur dans tous les parcs

La Sécurité publique appliquera le couvre-feu dans tous les parcs (minuit - 5 h), avec des patrouilles supplémentaires au belvédère Summit et dans les parcs avoisinants pour contrer la consommation d'alcool / de drogue et le bruit. Info : 514 989-5222.

Chaleur extrême: se protéger

La chaleur extrême peut provoquer différents problèmes de santé, surtout chez les personnes âgées, les personnes atteintes de maladies chroniques, les personnes souffrant de problèmes de santé mentales (incluant la dépendance à l'alcool ou aux drogues) et les enfants de 4 ans et moins. L'agence de la santé de Montréal conseille de passer quelques heures par jour dans un endroit frais, de boire beaucoup d'eau, sans attendre d'avoir soif et de réduire des efforts physiques. Consultez le site Web de l'agence de la santé pour plus de détails : www.santemontreal.qc.ca

CITY HALL

Exhibition at City Hall: Businesses on Sherbrooke Street West
From June 20 to October 20, 2015, City Hall lobby, 4333 Sherbrooke St. W. The Westmount Historical Association presents recent photographs by Doreen Lindsay of the businesses on Sherbrooke Street West. Info: 514 932-6688.

Westmount on Facebook and Twitter

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LIBRARY

TD Summer Reading Club 2015

From June 8. This year's theme focuses on PLAY! Ask for your Summer Reading Club Kit at the Children's Desk - you'll earn great prizes! Info: 514 989-5229.

Play games

Friday, July 17, 6:30 p.m., Lawn Bowling Clubhouse, 401 Kensington Ave. Join us for free lessons in lawn bowling, then have a friendly match against the staff of the Children's Library! Ice Cream will be served. Registration is required. Info: 514 989-5229.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Group Exhibition in the Gallery

July 9 to August 8, Gallery at Victoria Hall. The Gallery is pleased to present a group exhibition featuring artists Harvey Corn, Pascale Delhay, Pierre Lessard, Loran, Oriana Pizzingrilli, Eliane Rivard and Andrew Stringer. Info: 514 989-5521 or victoriahall@westmount.org.

Summer Concerts in Westmount Park
Sundays, July 12, 19 & 26 and August 2 & 9, 2 p.m., near the Gazebo. Enjoy jazz, classical and popular music Sunday afternoons in Westmount Park, bring your picnic and a chair!



Shakespeare in the Park

July 11, 12, 25 & 26. Westmount Park. Repercussion Theatre presents Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* or *What you Will*. Bring a chair and enjoy the bard under the stars. Info: 514 989-5226.

Shakespeare in the Park: Pre-Show Workshop for Teens

Saturday July 11 & 25 only, from 2:30 to 5 p.m. Register for one of our workshops, and get to work with a professional acting teacher, explore Shakespeare's text in a fun way, and then be part of our

Next Council Meeting Monday, August 3

pre-show *Twelfth Night* festivities as singers, fools or pirates! For Teens 13 to 17 years. Victoria Hall. Cost: \$25. Info: 514 989-5226.

SPORTS & RECREATION

Registration: fall & winter activities
From June 9. Sign up now in person at the WRC or online. The activities guide, distributed in early June, is available at **westmount.org**. Info: 514 989-5353.

PUBLIC SECURITY

Going on vacation?

Contact the Westmount Public Security Unit; officers will check on your property while you're away. Info: 514 989-5222.

Children's car seats: have them inspected

Grandchildren in town for summer vacation? Expecting an addition to the family? Make an appointment with Westmount's Public Safety team to have your child seat installed or verified by trained personnel. This service is free. Info: 514 989-5222.

Curfew in effect in all parks

Public Security will enforce the curfew in all city parks (12 a.m. to 5 a.m.) with extra patrols, especially at Summit Lookout and the surrounding parks for any alcohol/drug consumption and noise issues. Info: 514 989-5222.

Extreme heat: protect yourself

In very hot weather, some people are at greater risk of developing heat-related problems. Older people, young children, people with heart or lung disease, and people with mental health problems or drug or alcohol problems can be affected more than the rest of the population. The Montreal Health Agency recommends certain precautions particularly for those at risk, including spending a few hours a day in a cool and preferably air-conditioned space; drinking a lot of water without waiting to feel thirsty; and reducing one's level of physical exertion. For more information, consult the Agency's website at www.santemontreal.qc.ca



Westmount Art Scene

Fournier and Cole: A splash of colour

BY HEATHER BLACK

This month, Paul Fournier's exhibition at Han Art and Darlene Cole's at Galerie de Bellefeuille create a summer splash. Fournier's colourful abstract compositions evoke underwater or intergalactic exploration, while Cole's dreamlike imagery recalls an idyllic past. These artists' skillful use of colour conveys both meaning and mood.

Fournier at Han Art

In the exhibition "Realms of Being," Fournier's large-scale and colourful paintings, although non-representational, reference nature. Using primary colours that vibrate against contrasting backgrounds, Fournier's work attests to the power of colour. Painted in acrylic on canvas, Fournier also plays with contrasting texture to evoke underwater creatures, foliage

or far-flung galaxies.

In the composition "Maui Red," textured colours cascade like exotic foliage from the top of the canvas. Painted against a red background, brushstrokes or dabs of parrot blue, yellow and green evoke a tropical paradise. In contrast for "Capriccio Red," swirling lime lines within a blue central mass or red background evoke exploding atmospheric gases on Mars.

For the composition "Out of Blue," raised yellow and purple circular shapes on a thin blue wash evoke underwater jellyfish, while leafy green forms suggest seaweed. The repetition of circular white bubble-like forms creates a pulsating motion that is both inventive and referential.

With suggestive colour and evocative titles, Fournier challenges viewers to add their own imagination and experience to his creations. The exhibition continues until Sunday, July 12 at 4209 St. Catherine St.

Cole at Galerie de Bellefeuille

For her most recent exhibition "Roses and Moss," Cole recalls carefree summer adventures or Victorian elegance. Painted with fluid brushstrokes in oil on canvas, muted tones create a storybook quality while red splashes of colour enliven compositions. Known for depicting children at play, this series also includes large floral bouquets and young women in love.

In "Hearts Ablaze," a gentleman in top hat and tails escorts a woman dressed in a red hat and gown. His graceful yet authoritative stride evokes Victorian gallantry. In "My Heart Beating Wildly," a young woman in white sits under a rose tree reading, a peacock behind her.

In another "Knitting Love," a young woman bends over needles and wool. Roses abound in these compositions and in "Midnight Lyrics" or "Lips Like Sugar,"



Darlene Cole "Roses and Moss (My Heart Beating Wildly)"

large pink or red blossoms fill the canvas.

Cole's watercolour-like style of pastel washes creates an atmosphere of sun-soaked days and quiet reverie. Her distinctive and memorable imagery of idyllic childhood adventures and youthful romance evokes a nostalgia for a simpler and more elegant time. Memorable and beautiful, the exhibition continues until Tuesday, July 14 at 1367 Greene Ave.

Language of colour

Colour evokes subject, mood and theme or, as essayist Thomas Addison wrote, "Colours speak all languages." From Fournier's bold and futuristic palette to Cole's contemplative and nostalgic tones, both exhibitions recreate another way of being with painterly splashes of colour.

Second complaint brings ticket for barking dog

A \$76 ticket was issued for a dog barking "excessively" in an apartment building at 4643 Sherbrooke June 26, Public Security officials said. Patrollers were on the scene investigating the complaint at 7 pm when the resident returned home. It was the second complaint received about the barking since June 12, they said. At that time a verbal warning had been issued.

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ON THE SHELVES

Among new arrivals at the Westmount Public Library singled out by staff are:

Magazines

“The Arctic Carve-Up” by Kyla Mandel in *New Internationalist*, June 2015, p. 38-39. Could the next Cold War be a battle for control of the rapidly melting polar circle?

“Albert Maysles” by Chris Boekmann in *Film Comment*, May-June 2015, p. 20-23. Profile of the late groundbreaking documentary filmmaker-director (with his late brother) of such important films as *Grey Gardens* and *Gimme Shelter*.

“Une formule sans pétrole” par Daniel Bastien dans *Québec Science*, juin-juillet 2015, p. 26-30. Montréal pourrait accueillir un Grand prix de Formule électrique...

E-books – Cook books

In a *French Kitchen: Tales and Traditions of Everyday Home Cooking in France* by Susan Herrmann Loomis – An expat who long ago traded her American grocery store for a bustling French farmer’s market, Loomis demystifies in lively prose the seemingly effortless “je ne sais quoi” behind a simple French meal. One by one, readers are invited to meet the busy people of Louviers and surrounding villages and

towns of Loomis’s adopted home. With recipes.

Seven Spoons: My Favorite Recipes for Any and Every Day by Tara O’Brady – The much-anticipated debut from the author behind the popular food blog Seven Spoons, featuring distinctive, crowd-pleasing recipes; engaging, writerly essays; and the same stunning photography that has earned her website a devoted following.

Livres numériques

Check-point by Jean-Christophe Rufin – A young woman working for a charitable organization finds herself driving a 15-ton truck in war-torn Bosnia. The four men she travels with will, in turn, reveal their hidden wounds to her.

Six Minutes by Chrystine Brouillet – Detective Maud Graham investigates the murder of a man with no history. As a complex web of intrigue reveals itself, she is led to believe that he had witnessed an act of violence that someone wanted hidden forever.

Adult non-fiction – Musical biographies

Another Little Piece of My Heart: My Life of Rock and Revolution in the ‘60s by Richard Goldstein – In 1966, at the ripe age

of 22, Goldstein approached *The Village Voice* with a novel idea. “I want to be a rock critic,” he said. “What’s that?” the editor replied. It was a logical question since rock criticism didn’t yet exist. In the weekly column he would produce for the *Voice*, Goldstein became the first person to write regularly in a major publication about the music that changed our lives.

Words Without Music by Philip Glass – A world-renowned composer of symphonies, operas and film scores, Glass has, almost single-handedly, crafted the dominant sound of late 20th century classical music. Here his behind-the-scenes recollections allow readers to experience those moments of creative fusion when life so magically merged with art.

Adult French – Best-selling novels

La fille du train by Paula Hawkins – Rachel is a washed-up thirty-something, who creates a fantasy about the seemingly perfect couple she sees during her daily train ride into London. When the woman goes missing, Rachel manages to insert herself into the investigation.

Les quatre saisons de l’été by Grégoire Delacourt – Set in a seaside town during

the summer of 1999, this novel offers four intersecting stories that depict love at different stages of life.

Audiobooks on CD

The Strangler Vine: A Novel by M. J. Carter – Set in the untamed wilds of 19th-century colonial India, this is a dazzling historical thriller introducing an unforgettable investigative pair. India, 1937: William Avery is a young soldier with few prospects except rotting away in campaigns in India; Jeremiah Blake is a secret political agent gone native, a genius at languages and disguises, disenchanted with the whole ethos of British rule. Read by Alex Wyndham.

Sweetland: A Novel by Michael Crumme – The epic tale of an endangered Newfoundland community and the struggles of one man determined to resist its extinction. Read by John Lee.

Books about play for children

Minecraft: Beginner’s Handbook by Stephanie Milton – Read this excellent book to find out about the world of Minecraft, with useful tips to get you started on an adventure.

J’apprends à jongler par Nicolas George et Joël Miot – Tu veux apprendre à jongler? Ce livre est pour toi! Apprends les bases de la jonglerie et monte ton propre spectacle!

Reference

Consumer Reports Kitchen Planning and Buying Guide – July 2015.

Parent-Harvey wins youth medal



Westmounter Caroline Parent-Harvey receives a Lieutenant-Governor’s medal for youth May 2 from Pierre Duchesne, lieutenant governor of Quebec. She was one of 62 to receive the medal. A recent graduate of Villa St. Marcelline, Parent-Harvey was recognized for “her combination of academics and community service,” according to her father Edward Harvey. Other Westmounters who received the award were Westmounters Julia Peterson and Athina Khalid. See story May 26, p. 10.

Photo courtesy of Edward Harvey

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Announcements

25th Annual Echoes of a Proud Nation Pow Wow. July 11th & 12th – on both days gates open at 9:00

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PRODUCT RECALL

Kidde Canada, in conjunction with Health Canada, has announced a voluntary recall to replace certain Kidde black plastic valve disposable fire extinguishers.

ABC and BC-rated fire extinguishers manufactured between July 23, 2013 and October 15, 2014 could be affected.

If you believe you may have one of these fire extinguishers please contact Kidde Canada at **1-844-833-6394** (8 am - 5 pm) Mon-Fri or visit www.kiddecanada.com and click “Safety Notice”.



Claremont vignettes



Left: On July 1 on Claremont Ave., a “forbidden dump” was found just above Windsor. Right: a nearly full bottle of rum was found just below Sherbrooke. “Someone abandoned the captain!” exclaimed one passer-by, referring to the brand of alcohol. At least the bottle was not left at the forbidden dump...

Photos: Westmount Independent

What’s poisonous to our animals?



I was at our veterinarians, and they have stickers from the Pet Poison Helpline group advising of foods, household items, plants, medications and kitchen items that are toxic for our pets. Here is a fast round-up as a reminder.

Toxins in the kitchen

Chocolate
Xylitol (sugar-free gum and candy)
Grapes, raisins and currants
Caffeine (coffee and tea)
Fatty scraps
Onions, garlic and chives
Macadamia nuts
Unbaked yeast bread dough
Alcohol
Table salt

Specifically toxic for cats

Topical spot-on insecticides
Household cleaners

Antidepressants

Lilies
Insoluble oxalate plants (dieffenbachia, philodendron, etc.)
Human nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)
Cold and flu medication (eg. Tylenol)
Glow sticks
ADD/ADHD medications/amphetamines
Mouse and rat poison.

Specifically toxic for dogs

Chocolate
Mouse and rat poisons (rodenticides)
Vitamins and minerals (eg. vitamin D3, iron, etc.)
Human NSAIDs (eg. ibuprofen, naproxen, etc.)
Cardiac medications (eg. calcium channel blockers, beta-blockers, etc.)
Cold and allergy medications (eg. pseudoephedrine, phenylephrine, etc.)
Antidepressants (eg. selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors)
Xylitol
Acetaminophen (eg. Tylenol)
Caffeine pills.

There are also several plants that are poisonous to our pets. Check out www.pet-poison-helpline.com.



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Shanghai glamour at Daffodil ball at Windsor



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The 2015 theme of the annual Daffodil Ball was Shanghai silk. Held on April 16, the cavernous Windsor Station was transformed by Toronto-based Décor and More.



From left: Marie-Claude Savard, Julie du Page and Virginie Coossa.

Thousands of Chinese parasols were cleverly used as a room divider: white and poppy red on the cocktail party side and turquoise, purple and lime on the dining room side. Tables bore arrangements of daffodil wreaths winding their way up orchid trees, created by floral designer by Yves Chénier.

The sold-out eve was co-chaired by SNC Lavalin president/CEO **Robert Card**; CIBC board chair **Charles Sirois** (there with **Susan McPeak Sirois**); and Deloitte managing partner **Frank Vettese** (with his wife **Cinzia**).

Emcee again this year was **Virginie Coossa**, striking in a scarlet gown by Catherine Malandrino. Also wearing red was event planner **Alison Silkoff**, glam in strapless satin.

Committee members were **Normand Ciarlo** (with **David Lapierre**), **Isabelle Rande**, **Nathalie Schwartz** (with **Charles Dé-**

carie), **Erik Ryan** (with **Paule Beaudry**), **Anina Belle Giannini**, **Katia Piccolino** (with **Rosario Campanella**), **Figi Elman** (with **Stuart**), **Belle Grivakis** (Ernie), **Maria Grivakis** (with **Derek Curtis**), **Shirley Quantz**, **Jeannie Saunders**, **Sophie Durocher** (with **Richard Martineau**), **Nicole Magnan** (with **Claude**) and **Daniel Arbour** (with **Yun Wang**).

Westmounters noted amidst the glitz included **Elaine** and **Calin Rovinescu**, and **Jacques Maurice** and **Dominique Bertrand**,

as well as **Monique** and **Marc Leroux**, **Mélanie Dunn**, **Christiane Germain** and **David Blair**, **Monique Vialatou**, **Jessica** and **Mark Pathy**, **Audrey Vallières** and **Eric Boyko**, **Marie-Christine Lemerise** and **François-Charles Sirois**, **Carlos Ferreira** with daughter **Sandra**, **Ruby Brown** and **Richard Speer**, **Mark Mulroney**, **Jocelyne** and **Louis Audet**, **Anick**



Figi, left, and Stuart Elman.

Beaubien and **Guy Crevier** and **Sandra Chartrand** and **Alain Bouchard**.

Quebec celebs noted were **Anne-Marie Withenshaw**, **Rebecca Makonnen**, **Marie-**



From left: Pierre Lafrenière, Frank Vettese, Pamela Fralick, Robert Card and Charles Sirois.

Photos courtesy of the Daffodil Ball

Claude Savard, and **Julie Lepage** as well as Quebecor CEO **Pierre Dion** with **Geneviève Primard**.

Attending from the Canadian Cancer Society Quebec division were chair **Pierre**



Pierre Dion, left, and Geneviève Primard.

Lafranière and **Pamela Fralick**, national CEO.

The gala raised \$1.56 million net.



Eric Boyko, left, and Audrey Vallières.

Tree falls on Audi

A tree limb at the front of 641 Argyle fell on a car June 26, Public Security officials said. The Audi's trunk and a front door were reported damaged at 4:40 pm.

Branches from same tree fall twice on hydro wires

Branches of a tree at the back of a house on de Maisonneuve west of Prince Albert fell onto electrical wires causing them to spark on two separate occasions June 23 and 28, Public Security officials said. Firefighters were already on the scene of the first incident at 6:06 pm when a branch was found suspended on a "medium" tension wire.

Because the tree was located on private

property, residents were advised of their responsibility to prune the tree. Those living on Burton whose yard backed onto the property were warned of the danger.

Five days later, officers were called back at 9:17 am for a similar problem and were told a private contractor was to prune the tree the next day. The work was found in progress when patrollers followed up.



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NEW

WESTMOUNT

175 Côte St-Antoine **\$1,649,000**
Magnificent, bright and totally renovated detached 3 bdr, double garage... just steps to Murray Park. MLS 27888146



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4097 Highland Av. **\$1,295,000**
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